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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 30, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1766 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KISL
Captions: None
Subject: MBZ ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SYMPATHIZERS IN THE UAE
Ref: None

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 01766

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: P/M DCM AMB POL

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB: MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: ECON:CCRUMPLER
CLEARED: DCM: RALBRIGHT; POL: JMAYBURY

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PP RUEHC RUEHZM RUCAACC
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4563
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUCAACC/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

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DEPT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/08
TAGS: KISL PGOV PREL TC
SUBJECT: MBZ ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SYMPATHIZERS IN THE UAE

REF: ABU DHABI 1417

¶1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for
reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

¶2. (C) In a meeting with Deputy Secretary Armitage and the Ambassador on April 20, Abu Dhabi Deputy Crown Prince and UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (MbZ) noted that UAE security forces recently had identified "50 to 60" Emirati "Ikhwan muslimeen" or Muslim Brothers (MB). MbZ also told Dep Secretary Armitage that a senior MB sympathizer is within one of the ruling families, but "thankfully not from Abu Dhabi." (Note: We believe MbZ was referring to Sharjah Ruler Shaykh Sultan Al-Qassimi, whose Wahabi leanings are well known. End note.)

¶3. (C) In a subsequent one-on-one meeting with the

Ambassador, MbZ provided further details on the strength of the MB in the UAE. He said that only a dozen out of the 50 or 60 identified could be described as senior MB operatives, and that they were all civilians. He added that the security services estimate there are up to 700 MB sympathizers in the UAE. MbZ said that what took the authorities by surprise was to find sympathizers within the UAE Armed Forces, although the military personnel involved were for the most part junior officers recruited to serve as sleeper cells.

¶4. (C) The dozen civilians have not been arrested and there are ongoing consultations taking place across Emirate lines on how to handle them. (Note: In the past we have seen many civilians with MB leanings forced into early retirement or face loss of employment. See 03 Abu Dhabi 2107 and 02 Abu Dhabi 5821. End Note.)

¶5. (C) MbZ described to the Ambassador how they handled the "ikhwan" identified in the military. They were all arrested, and a gentle form of reverse-brainwashing and family/tribal involvement had worked very well. MbZ personally had met with several of the family members of the individuals involved and was pleased that, with one exception, all of the 40 military personnel detained had been released. MbZ said that after intense discussions with religious and tribal leaders, all of them were convinced that they had been led astray and pledged to faithfully serve their country and military. To date, MbZ said that the UAEG has jailed one individual within the UAE military, described as a dedicated MB member with radical ideas. He reiterated the UAEG's long-standing commitment to rooting out extremist elements in the society, reforming the education system, and empowering the moderates throughout the seven emirates to ensure continued stability in the country.

Wahba